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Amesbury Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1945

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 26th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 28/46 dated Feb. 11th, 1946.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient servant,
A. H. WILSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931 : 16,883
Population—Estimated Mid. 1945—13,320
Area, 63,464 Acres
Rateable Value : £133,023
Sum represented by Penny Rate : £580 2 9

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1945 : 3237

Births, 1945	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	148	127	275	(30 Illegitimate)
Still	2	4	6	(1 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1945.		England and Wales	
Live	20.6	Live	16.1
Still	0.45	Still	0.46

Birth Rate — Average last 10 years 20.63
England and Wales — ,, ,, 10 ,, 15.46

Deaths : Males 71. Females 49. Total 120.

Death Rate 9.09 Average last 10 years 9.9
England and Wales 11.4 ,, ,, 10 years 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 7
Females 3. Total 10
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 36.3
England and Wales 46.0
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 38.3
England and Wales ,, ,, 10 years 52.4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	38 (7 Mil).	37 (7 Mil).	1
Diphtheria	1 (1 Mil).	1 (1 Mil).	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	8 (2 Mil).	3 (2 Mil).	0
Erysipelas	4 (1 Mil).	2 (1 Mil).	1
Measles	108 (14 Mil).	21 (14 Mil).	0
Whooping Cough	11	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	5 (2 Mil).	5 (2 Mil).	0
Dysentry	6 (Mil).	6 (Mil).	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0

Scarlet Fever. 38 cases were notified during the year and of these 7 were non-civilian cases. All went to Hospital except one and the one death was in a child of three years old. The cases were all sporadic equally through the year with the exception of seven cases at East Gomeldon during June.

Diphtheria. The one case of this disease was in a soldier in one of the Camps, otherwise the District was free from this disease.

Pneumonia. Eight cases were notified and of these two were non-civilian. Of the notified cases none died, all the deaths given by the Registrar General were inward transferable cases and of types which are not notifiable.

Erysipelas. Four cases were notified one of which was non-civilian. The death recorded was in one of those admitted to Hospital, but she was not admitted until just before she died.

Measles. Of the hundred and eight cases fourteen were non-civilian and of the seven cases admitted to Hospital, six were from a War time resident nursery and one from Salisbury Infirmary. No death was recorded.

Whooping Cough. Only eleven cases were notified and these were at each end of the year equally. The death given by the Registrar was not one of these but was a child age 11 months who died in a Hospital in the North of the County but was not notified to me.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Five cases of this disease were notified and of these two were non-civilian. All were treated in Hospital. One of the civilian cases was in a N.A.A.F.I. worker from one of the camps. None of those notified died. The Registrar General gives one Female death but the only death I can trace is that of a child age 17 months which died in an institution and was not notified to me.

Dysentry. The six cases notified were all non-civilian and I know nothing about them.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The one case notified was treated in Hospital.

Tuberculosis. 22 cases of all sorts were notified during the year which is exactly the same as last year. Of these two were transfers from other Counties, while two were discharges from the Services. One died before the end of the year and four left the district.

	Notifications were		
Male Pulmonary	2	between	15–20
	1	,,	20–25
	2	,,	25–35
	1	,,	35–45
	1	Over	65
Female Pulmonary	3	Between	20–25
	2	,,	25–35
	1	,,	55–65
Male Non-Pulmonary	4	,,	5–10
Female Non-Pulmonary	4	,,	5–10
	1	,,	10–15
The Deaths were			
Male Pulmonary	1	,,	35–45
Female Pulmonary	1	,,	55–56
	1	,,	5–10
Male Non-Pulmonary	1	,,	20–25

This case had not been notified.

Immunisation. During the year 183 children between the ages of one and five and 45 between 5 and 15 were immunised against diphtheria. This makes a grand total since the commencement of the campaign to 1054 under five and 1816 over five.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water to those Parishes with public piped supplies continued to function satisfactorily. There was no shortage of water in the Councils supplies during the year.

The following supply schemes are owned by the Council

Parishes	Population	Houses supplied
Amesbury	3230	578
Bulford and Durrington	3802	478
Shrewton	1235	141

Tilshead. This village is served by a 1 inch main taken from a nearby W.D. Main There are seven standpipes taken off this pipe serving 120 houses and a population of 400. The Council buys water in bulk from the War Department.

The undermentioned Parishes are supplied from private water schemes.

Cholderton. (Cholderton Water Co.) 56 houses supplied, population 220.

Wilsford and Lake. (Lt. Col. F. G. Bailey) 53 houses supplied, Population 313.

There are no other piped supplies in the other Parishes in the District, although a number of houses are supplied from W.D. mains and farm supplies. The Councils Consulting Engineers have prepared a scheme for supplying the whole district and this is designed in conjunction with a similar scheme for the Salisbury and Wilton Rural District Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There is only one Parish in the Rural District (AMESBURY) with a public sewer. The Sewerage Disposal Works, enlarged in recent years, continue to function satisfactorily and the effluent has been tested by the County Public Health Authorities and found to be very satisfactory. There were no extensions to the sewers during the year.

The DURRINGTON AND BULFORD SEWERAGE is long overdue. The Scheme was completed before the War, but its execution was prevented by the war; however the War Department took over the site intended for the works and completed a scheme for Bulford Barracks but excluded the civilian parts of both Bulford and Durrington. Negotiations are now going on between the Council and the War Department, but these hang on in an interminable manner, thus preventing a very necessary and important health service required both for the health and convenience of these parishes. All efforts by the Council to bring about this much needed health service have so far proved of no avail.

I also consider that a sewage disposal scheme for the Parish of SHREWTON is very necessary as they already have an efficient water supply.

The Council have instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare a report on the sewerage of each Parish in the Rural District.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The system of separate alternate collection of refuse and salvage from each Parish was continued during the year. As most combustible materials were "Salvaged" again, it still became impossible to incinerate refuse in the Destructor, and controlled tipping was resorted to. As the tip adjoining the Sewerage Disposal Works at Amesbury became filled up a new shallow tip was commenced at West Amesbury, and was in an entirely satisfactory state at end of the year.

I hope that incineration will be recommenced as soon as material and labour are available aud the existing land belonging to the Council used as soon as possible.

Paper, rags, bottles and bones etc. were salvaged and disposed of to contractors but the amount of material put out by householders has decreased considerably since the end of the war.

HOUSING AND OVERCROWDING

Routine action under the Housing Acts during the year consisted of investigations of complaints and following up of notices for essential repairs.

There is undoubtedly a good deal of overcrowding in the District owing to the housing shortage, which is becoming more acute owing to the number of men being demobilised from H.M. Forces. The only means of abating this is by building more houses, which the Council are trying their best to do as soon as possible.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

The Survey recommended by the Hobhouse Report was begun in the District in January 1945. Owing to the impossibility of carrying out the survey with the existing staff, the Council authorised the appointments of an additional technical officer and a clerical assistant. Mr. A. P. Colborne, A.F.A.S., commenced duty in January, 1945 as assistant to the Sanitary Inspector and resigned in October. In November, Mr. J. R. Tanner, the Council's Additional Sanitary Inspector, was released from H.M. Forces, and continued the survey until its completion.

In classifying the results of the survey, the County standard of fitness adopted by the Wiltshire Joint Rural Housing Advisory Committee has been borne in mind, having due regard to local conditions.

The classifications recommended are as follows :—

Class 1. Houses satisfactory in all respects.

Class 2. Houses with minor defects.

Class 3. Houses requiring repair, structural alterations or improvement.

Class 4. Houses suitable for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, or for acquisition.

Class 5. Houses unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable expense.

At the outset of the survey, an attempt was made to inspect and record in detail every house in the district. It was soon apparent that such a survey would take a number of years and accordingly, it was decided to carry out a less detailed, but

none the less thoroughly comprehensive, inspection of houses. This was in accordance with the Ministry of Health's intention that the survey should be regarded firstly as a preliminary step in ascertaining the general position of housing throughout the Country, and that as time went on the survey would gradually become more thorough.

Parish	*Class 1*	*Class 2*	*Class 3*	*Class 4*	*Class 5*	*Total*
Amesbury	274	70	13	4	16	377
Allington	20	11	4	8	3	46
Bulford	10	5	3	1	3	22
Cholderton	6	15	10	—	1	32
Durnford	8	33	13	8	1	63
Durrington	215	95	24	2	13	349
Figheldean	13	6	16	2	5	42
Idmiston	63	57	10	13	20	163
Newton Toney	12	25	14	4	5	60
Orcheston	1	10	11	9	2	33
Shrewton	18	65	61	25	7	176
Tilshead	4	12	15	3	8	42
Wilsford	13	12	12	4	—	41
Winterbourne	24	33	38	19	7	121
Winterbourne Stoke	10	13	13	1	10	47
Woodford	22	31	31	7	2	82
Totals	713	493	277	110	103	1696

NOTE.—The total number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books is 3232. Of this number, 366 are Council Houses concerning which the Council already has records, 199 are War Department property, and 917 are houses which do not come within the scope of the Housing Acts. This left a total of 1696 houses to be sinspected and recorded.

MILK AND SUPPLY

Inspections under the Milk and Dairies Order were carried out as usual during the year, as far as was possible, each farm was visited every quarter, while more frequent visits were made to the less hygienic premises.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after Verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	117	45	18	1	16	1	18
Slaughter-houses ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	46	4	1	—	1	—	3
Cowsheds ... Dairies and Milkstores	270	34	6	—	6	—	27
Butchers' Shops ...	27	1	1	—	1	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	62	1	—	1	—	1	—
Bakehouses	43	5	3	—	3	—	2
Totals	566	90	29	2	27	2	50

Not classified above.

Housing Inspections	53
Infectious Diseases	40
Unclassified Visits and Inspections— drainage, refuse collection, byelaws etc.	154
Total No. of visits	813

(The above visits do not include those made during the Rural Housing Survey).

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers Registered 1945	79
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered 1945	40
,, ,, Certificates Issued (Producers) during 1945	5
,, ,, ,, ,, (Retailers) ,, ,,	3

Meat and Foods

As all meat for the District is slaughtered in another area, no regular meat inspection was carried out, but wartime visits were made to butchers shops, although no action was found necessary.

Regular inspection of food in provision stores was carried out, and the following articles were condemned.

Meat and Foods

Tinned	Meat	2362½ lbs.
,,	Milk	1337 Tins
,,	Vegetables	49 Tins
		291½ lbs
,,	Fish	74 lbs
		246 Tins
,,	Benns	58 Tins

Although a little less than in previous years these figures may appear high, but the major portion of these goods were condemned at N.A.A.F.I. and Y.M.C.A. warehouses, which serve large areas.

RODENT CONTROL

The work of infestation control under the Infestation Order 1943 was carried out as far as was found necessary. The arrangement made last year with the War Agricultural Executive Committee came to an end, but this Committee continued to treat the Councils refuse dumps and Sewerage Works, which adjoin agricultural land.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	71	49
Typhoid and Paratyphoid		
Cerebrospinal Fever		1
Scarlet Fever		1
Whooping Cough	1	
Diphtheria		
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.	1	1
Other form of Tuberc.	2	
Syphilitic Diseases		1
Influenza	1	
Measles		
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.		
Ac. Inf. Enceph		
Cancer of b. cav; and oesoph (M.) uterus (F.)	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	
Cancer of breast		3
Cancer of all other sites	4	4
Diabetes		
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	9	5
Heart disease	23	17
Other dis. of circ. syst.		1
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia	4	1
Other Resp. diseases	1	
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	1	
Diarrhœa under two years	1	

Causes of Death	M.	F.
Appendicits		
Other digest. diseases	2	1
Nephritis		
Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Other maternal causes		1
Premature birth	2	2
Cong. malf. birth. inj. Inf. dis.	1	1
Suicide		
Road Traffic Act	1	
Other violent causes	2	
All other causes	8	6
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Total	7	3
Legitimate	5	3
Illegitimate	2	
Live Births		
Total	148	127
Legitimate	131	114
Illegitimate	17	13
Stillbirths		
Total	2	4
Legitimate	2	3
Illegitimate		1
Population	13,320	

JAY & SON. BEDWIN STREET, SALISBURY